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OIA-51/77  
25 May 1977CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Directorate of Intelligence  
Office of Imagery Analysis

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Associate Deputy Director of Intelligence

SUBJECT : Imagery Analysis Support to NPIC

1. Noel spoke with you last week about our concern over sending OIA analysts to NPIC to help them during their perceived peak workloads. It now appears that recent changes [ ] have eliminated the possibility of such a need [ ] but the question may very well resurface at some future date. Consequently, we have evaluated the need for the periodic augmentation of NPIC and the impact of such an action on both OIA and the DDI.

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2. We have concluded that--under foreseeable circumstances--there is no need to augment NPIC imagery analysis resources with OIA resources. John Hicks probably would not agree with this judgement but Noel's belief is that John is being driven more by his desire to graphically demonstrate his perceived need for [ ] photo interpreters that DIA failed to provide, than by finding the most rational solution to temporary workload peaks. As you are well aware, NPIC has taken every opportunity to call attention to their perceived manpower shortage since DIA denied them these positions in 1974.

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3. There are three reasons why we question NPIC's need.

--NPIC's manpower requirements for 1977 were calculated in 1974, and were based on projected imagery inputs [ ].  
[ ] Actual imagery inputs for 1977 are [ ] those projected.

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--Our analysts and supervisors have occasionally heard from their counterparts in NPIC that there are often periods when the NPIC workload is light. These NPIC personnel believe they can handle workload peaks. I am in no position to judge the validity of these remarks, but find them difficult to ignore.

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4. If in fact NPIC does find itself in difficulty due to an increasing workload, I believe there are several steps that could be taken to alleviate the problem.

--Some targets [redacted] are readout twice by different groups of imagery analysts [redacted]

[redacted] A comparison of the NPIC cables shows little difference in the content of information on the same target. I question the need for any target to be readout three times by imagery analysts in the same organization. Certainly there is room here for some economy of effort.

--NPIC occasionally solicits departmental work from organizations. I can sympathize with their desire to get involved with more interesting and challenging types of analysis, but can they really afford to do so if they are having difficulty meeting their National commitments?

5. If OIA were required to periodically augment NPIC with imagery analysts, I believe it would adversely impact on both OIA and the DDI. OIA is, as I believe you are aware, currently behind in meeting many reporting due dates. We are presently reviewing our production program and procedures (that is, periodic reporting and assimilation) in the hope of increasing not only the efficiency of our operation, but also of increasing the value of our product. Any loss of experienced personnel to NPIC for even short periods of time would seriously affect such an effort. Second, morale in OIA was not at its highest point prior to Noel's arrival, but I believe progress has been made in improving this situation over the last several months. A decision to send OIA analysts to NPIC on loan would seriously erode morale. Our analysts simply do not believe that NPIC has a legitimate need for periodic augmentation, and given the workload pressures placed on them and their assessment of the value of their contribution to the overall DDI production program, would view such an action with much disfavor.

[redacted]

Deputy Director  
Imagery Analysis

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